



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 1, 2012

**WELCOME TO
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FOUNDED 1890**

First Lutheran is a community, a gathering of people of diverse ages, cultures and traditions.

Just as Jesus opened himself to all and, by implication, opened the reign of God to all, so we, the members of First Lutheran seek to do the same.

Therefore, all are welcome here regardless of their race, gender or sexual orientation; regardless of their social, economic, educational, linguistic or relationship status; regardless of their citizenship, religious or cultural background or makeup of their family; and regardless of their physical, mental, emotional or spiritual condition. There is a place for you in our community worship, service and life.

To our Visitors: You are invited to sign our guest book in the Narthex (lobby) and join us for coffee and conversation downstairs after worship.

First Lutheran is easily accessible via major city routes - 41st Avenue and Kingsway – and Bus #41 runs west from the Joyce Street Skytrain station. Ample parking is available in a lot just west of the church and on the church side of the two streets--Wales Street and 42nd Avenue. The wheelchair entrance is also the office entrance on 42nd Avenue.

For your convenience, there is an elevator in the southwest corner of the building, fully accessible washrooms on the main floor in the northwest corner and two washrooms down the stairs at the east end of the lower level. A childcare play area is on the lower level.

The present building, erected in 1957, is the third in our history. Founded by Scandinavian fishermen, *First Lutheran* is tied closely to the history of Vancouver. Our logo reflects our ethnic and Christian roots, our West Coast location as well as the varied races and cultures which enrich our life and ministry together.



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**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 1, 2012**

Those Serving the Servants Today

<i>Presider</i>	Pr. Hergy
<i>Homilist</i>	Pr. Paul Schmidt
<i>Lector</i>	June Schramm
<i>Acolytes</i>	Jean-Pierre Bizimana Vedaste Niyonsaba
<i>Ministry of Music Organ/Piano</i>	Jeanette Price
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	Alex Wilson Deanna Wilson
<i>Communion Servers</i>	June Schramm Alex Wilson Deanna Wilson Mikhail Lennikov
<i>Coffee Hour Hosts</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	
<i>Offering Counters</i>	Randy Enders Ernie Neumann

If you'd like to serve God and our community by assisting in our Sunday worship, please contact Iris Kong, our office administrator, at 604.435.6020. If you'd like to help with Coffee Hour, please call Julie Bauming at 604 986-5389.

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A liturgy of Word and Sacrament

Worshippers may wish to light a votive candle in memory of a loved one or for meditation. This may be done at any time before or during the liturgy except during community prayers, readings or homily. Since the number of candles is limited and to avoid mishaps, parents and caregivers are asked to be attentive when allowing children to light one.

INTRODUCTION

In the psalm all the natural world praises God, including all humanity, male and female, young and old. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we speak of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

PRELUDE

Arioso

Although I Speak With Angel's Tongue

Johann Sebastian Bach

Barbara Harbach

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

Congregation's Choice

GREETING AND KYRIE

Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

Chapter 61

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Chapter 62

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Response after the reading: **Thanks be to God.**

LESSON HYMN *Congregation's Choice*

SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4–7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Response after the reading: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *Congregation's Choice*

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22–40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

Response after announcement: **Glory to you, O God**

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Response to conclusion of reading: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY *(Silence follows for reflection)*

HYMN OF THE DAY # 275 *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"*

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: "Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Schmucke Dich

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

OFFERTORY PRAYER *(All rise)*

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(The three-fold exchange is sung unaccompanied)*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power; and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**



It is Christ himself who invites all the baptized members of God's family — and all our guests — to come to his table where he gives his body and blood, along with the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation under the forms of bread and wine. During Advent, the wafer is received in the open palm. All may drink from the first (common) cup or, instinct (dip) the wafer into the second (pouring) cup. Those who desire prayer and anointing for the healing of any illness or brokenness in mind, body or spirit are invited to receive these blessings after communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION # 286 "Your Little Ones"

Teach Me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *(All rise)*

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of grain and wine, the body and blood of our Saviour Christ.

As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God most high, God with us,

God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Congregation's Choice

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Postludium

Gordon Young

TODAY

Christ for the City

Interchurch Worship Service

New Year's Day! Jan 1, 2:00-3:30 pm

Hosted by Vancouver East Ministerial Association

at First Christian Reformed Church

2670 Victoria Dr. (South of Broadway)

- Praise, worship & prayer
- Connecting for Collaboration
- Speaker: David Macfarlane, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association
- Hear about local churches in the City
- Food and fellowship (please bring finger food)

YOUTH NIGHT
Friday, Dec. 30, 7pm

Youth With a Mission is hosting a night for teens and young adults with David Macfarlane at West Coast Christian Fellowship (3198 East Georgia St)



Any Questions? Contact: vemaconnect@gmail.com // 604.318.0969

Announcements

CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

January 8

Feast of the Epiphany
AT St. Thomas Anglican, **10 am**
(See announcement below)

January 15

Sunday School, 9:45
Epiphany II, 10:30 am
at First Lutheran

Please remember that the service at St. Thomas next Sunday, January 8, at 10 a. m. will celebrate their 100th anniversary. A potluck lunch will follow, so please bring something to share. St. Thomas is 3 blocks west of FLC on E 41st Ave (at St. Margarets).



Our 2011 AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be Friday, February 10, 2012. Annual reports are to be in by Sunday, January 15. Please email them to Iris Kong at info@firstlutheranvancouver.com or drop them off in the church office.

Seniors, Soup, Sandwiches and socializing

Are you 55+? Would you like to get to know others in the congregation of a similar vintage? If so, please mark your calendar for lunch on Thursday, January 26th at 12:30. Soup and dessert will be provided. Bring a few sandwiches to share. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex by January 23rd if you plan to attend. Or talk to Russell and Linda Collins or Karen Duddy for more information.

The ordination of Fleming Blishen will take place on Tuesday, January 3rd at 11am. It will be hosted by the Surrey Urban Mission Society (13388-104th Avenue, Surrey). Everyone is invited! Following the service there will be a BBQ lunch. If you plan on going to the service and the lunch, please RSVP to sums@telus.net so they have an idea of numbers.

Our Thanks to Pr. Paul Schmidt for proclaiming the word of good new this morning.



**Choir practice resumes
on Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 pm.**

Former members are invited to a celebration of the life of Faith Lutheran Church in Burnaby on January 14, 2012. The celebration will commence with worship at 1 pm followed by refreshments and a time for remembering and visiting with old friends. Please RSVP by **January 7, 2012** via email to faithlutheranbby@telus.net or by phone **604-299-3913**.

First Lutheran Church is a member of the *British Columbia Synod* (one of five regions) which make up the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)* which in turn belongs to the *Lutheran World Federation* which represents the 80 million Lutherans around the world. For more information on the ministries of the ELCIC (office in Winnipeg, Manitoba), visit its website at www.elcic.ca. For similar information on the BC synod, visit its office in New Westminster or its website at www.bcsynod.org.

Financial support of our congregation's life and mission is provided by the donations of our members given in thankful response to the generosity shown by God in the gifts given to us. Offerings of any amount are gratefully accepted and joyfully spent in our service to Christ and to others.

Have you remembered First Lutheran in your will? Consider how a bequest or gift might continue supporting our mission and ministry.

DIRECTORY

Ministers	God's Baptized People
Pastor	Richard Hergesheimer 604.430.2536
Minister of Music	Jeanette Price 604.251.2656
Office Administrator	Iris Kong 604.456.0476
Caretaker	Peter dela Torre
Altar Guild Coordinator	Janet Schreiber
Liturgical Artist	June Schramm
Church Council	
	Russell Collins - <i>Chairperson</i>
	Sandi Strate - <i>Vice Chair & Human Resources</i>
	Ernie Neumann - <i>Treasurer</i>
	Sylvia Harris - <i>Envelope Secretary</i>
	Julie Bauming - <i>Secretary & Fellowship & Hospitality</i>
	Karen Kerfoot - <i>Fellowship & Hospitality</i>
	Ingrid Bielenberg - <i>Fellowship & Hospitality</i>
	Alex Wilson - <i>Property</i>
	Kim Hoath - <i>Property</i>
	Mikhail Lennikov - <i>Outreach</i>
	Karen Duddy - <i>Seniors</i>
	June Heywood - <i>Education</i>